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MONROE DOCTRINE FOR THE WHOLE WORLD, WILSON'S PLAN TO BRING LASTING PEACE

CITY'S DEBT MOUNTS TO STAGGERING PROPORTIONS; KEATING'S RATE IS 19.3

Tax Assessment Recommended by City Auditor Is Pared to Lowest Possible Figure, Leaving Out Many Usual Features, and Committing to Bond Revenue Many Projects.

Bonded Debt of the City Is Now Over Six Millions, and Projects of Administration Will Double That Amount—Ice Plant Fiasco Has Cost the Taxpayers Over \$6,000.

In the midst of unexampled prosperity, Bridgeport is facing a year of accumulation of staggering debt, oppressive taxation, and inconceivable insolence in its servants.

If the assessors' valuations on taxable property in the city are boosted to a grand total of \$180,000,000, which is the estimate they have given the city auditor, and the various requisitions of the city departments are granted in full a tax rate of 36 mills would be required.

After slashing heroically, City Auditor Bernard Keating has recommended a tax rate of 19.3 mills on a \$180,000,000 grand list.

This, however, he finds, cannot include any provision for the 1917 state tax, which must be paid promptly if the state demands, as there is a 9 per cent. penalty tax attached.

Neither can it provide for the new policemen's salaries; nor for many things which formerly the city of Bridgeport paid for by direct taxation.

It doesn't include a one mill tax for school buildings, for which posterity must pay, according to the Republican administration's fiscal policy.

The city auditor left many improvements for bonding, as the mayor's committee on financing new projects desires.

The city auditor finds that the debt of the city is now \$6,374,800. The state law allows a debt of no more than \$9,000,000, estimated on a \$180,000,000 grand list. If the city is burdened with more than \$6,000,000 more of debt through bonding, as the administration proposes, the law will be violated.

The present per capita debt, according to the city auditor's estimate is \$28.

The city auditor provided in his recommendation \$184,577.98 in payment of last year's state tax, which wasn't provided for by the administration last year, in the effort to make the tax appear on the surface less oppressive than it really was.

The city auditor recommends that borrowing on time notes be resorted to hereafter to meet the state tax when demanded, and the cash to meet the notes be provided later.

This, he believes, would save interest.

He recommends that the city procure the power to issue short term notes in anticipation of bond issues, instead of setting the proceeds of the bond issue aside and waiting for the time of final payment. This, he believes, would save the difference between the 4-4-4 per cent. interest on the bonds and the 2 per cent. interest the proceeds of the bonds would draw in the bank.

He urges that bonding be only for permanent improvements, or for improvements that will outlast the life of the bonds. In no other case is bonding justifiable, he believes.

ADMINISTRATION WOULD BOND CITY FOR NEARLY \$6,500,000 WITHOUT CONSENT OF PEOPLE

Without referendum or giving the people further voice on the subject, the "mayor's committee to finance new projects" will recommend that the city be bonded for \$6,454,000 for "public improvements."

Bills covering the various items of the proposed gigantic bond issue were drawn this afternoon by John T. King, chairman of the committee and Attorney Charles Stuart Canfield, one of the members, and will be presented to the legislature this week. The bills will be rushed in to get them before the body before Friday, the time limit set for the introduction of new business.

All the members of the committee went on record today as being opposed to any referendum on the proposed bond issues despite the protest of Jasper McLevy, a prominent Socialist.

Mr. McLevy has been an interested auditor at all sessions of the committee.

The following bond issues are proposed: For street extensions, \$1,450,000; paving (probably Warren), \$1,000,000; sewers, \$2,000,000; new schools, \$1,000,000; parks \$725,000; isolation hospital, \$200,000; health and charities building, \$125,000; police and fire department, \$75,000.

"If you want to know my opinion," said Chairman King, when Jasper McLevy asked why the proposed bonds were not to be submitted to referendum vote of the people, "I am opposed to the referendum and I think the other members of the committee feel as I do."

Mr. McLevy said he would vote for some of the bond issues because he favored the things they were to provide, but he felt that as it had been the practice in the past, all proposed bonding measures should be submitted to a referendum.

"If the people's money you are spending," said Mr. McLevy, "they will have to pay the bills now or some time in the future and as long as that is so why not give them the chance to say how the money is to be spent?"

"Can they have a chance?" asked Mr. King. "They have delegated this committee to look after the matter and their representatives in Hartford will look after it there. The administration that puts over these

bonds without referendum will take any blame attached to its action."

Atty. Canfield said he thought the committee was best fitted to judge what bond issues should be recommended as the committee had the benefit of hearing the heads of each city department as to the requirements of his department. This data, he said, never reached the ordinary citizen. He asked if the "deadly inefficiency, deadly incompetence, or deadly negligence" was not responsible to the failure of many voters to express themselves at special elections where bonds were the issue.

George M. Eames, president of the park commission, gave the committee a detailed statement of the needs of the park department to-day. The meeting was held in the mayor's office.

"Until a few years ago the city had done little for its parks except cut the grass," said Mr. Eames. In response to a question from DeVer H. Warner, he said the most important project was the purchase of "Pleasure Beach." This he said could be taken by condemnation proceedings for \$250,000. The owners ask \$400,000 and it is in the tax list for \$85,000. The committee agreed that in taken the property the city ought not to pay for any "costly mistakes" improvements that previous lessees of the premises might have made."

Other projects included in the budget for the park are: Rolling lift bridge from Fayerweather Island across to Black Rock shore, \$215,000; new bath house and equipment at Seaside park, \$50,000; complete renovation and dressing rooms for athletic sports and a new building for garage, barn and tool house, \$30,000; children's playgrounds, two athletic fields for adults at \$50,000, \$100,000; three comfort stations at \$10,000, \$30,000; six special, \$55,000; electric lighting in parks, \$25,000.

In street extensions the committee will recommend extending Broad street to Bull's Head; widening the south side of Water street from South avenue to Congress street; possibly taking a part of the freight sheds, buildings at the foot of State street, a part of the Sagal building and the McElroy Bros. building; Liberty to West Liberty street and Harrison street to State street.

TEUTONS CHECK ENEMY ATTACKS AT MANY POINTS

British and Russian Raids Are Repulsed, War Office Announces.

Berlin, Jan. 22, by wireless to Sayville.—The repulse of a minor attack by the British on the German lines near Lens is announced in today's German army headquarters statement regarding operations on the Franco-Belgian front.

Night raids in the Riga region, in which the Russians were repulsed, are the only developments on the Russian front reported today.

Lively skirmishing has been in progress along the Rumanian front. In the Patna valley area on the Moldavian western front the Russians attacked the German advanced line but were repulsed.

GERMAN ATTACKS HALTED.

Paris, Jan. 22.—Two attacks were made by the Germans last night on the Verdun front, on the right bank of the Meuse. Today's official announcement says they were driven back each time by the French fire.

WOULD RE-OPEN SHAW CASE.

Argument was made today before Compensation Commissioner E. T. Buckingham for the reopening of the Virginia Shaw case and a revised decision. Attorney George Finkelstein presented motions for a rehearing following a decision of the superior court that the commissioner's decision did not fully determine whether Virginia Shaw was the legitimate child of Walter Shaw, killed at Ash Creek in a trolley accident last summer.

New Haven, Jan. 22.—For New Haven and vicinity: Fair and colder to-night and Tuesday.

MARINE KILLED IN FIGHT WITH SAN DOMINGANS

Sharp Engagement Takes Place at Night at Scene of Former Battles.

Washington, Jan. 22.—One marine was killed and another wounded in night fighting Saturday with native forces in San Domingo, the state department reported today.

Captain Knapp, commanding the American cruiser forces, reported the fight occurred Saturday night in the vicinity of the Porvenir sugar plantation near Macoris, the scene of two similar encounters recently. Private J. R. Olson of the 50th company was killed and Corporal George Wilson of the 52nd company was shot in the neck.

The reports here assume that the two companies were engaged in the disarming of the natives and establishing the new government under the American military authorities. The dispatch did not say what were the native losses.

Two Here Institute Divorce Proceedings

Frank Heeds, a newsdealer of this city, has brought proceedings in the superior court against Mary Heeds of this city, asking for a divorce. He alleges desertion Oct. 15, 1911. The couple were married Aug. 12, 1903. Mrs. Heeds' maiden name was Mary Hartle.

Another divorce action filed was brought by Anna Kacmar of this city against John Kacmar of this city. Intolerable cruelty is the ground. Mrs. Kacmar, whose maiden name was Anna Gollas, married the defendant Aug. 11, 1906. Both suits are returnable to the February term of court.

SEA RAIDER DESTROYED BY CRUISER

Brazil Reports That British Warship Has Sunk Commerce Raider at Point Off Brazil Coast—No Details Given.

State Department Makes Inquiry as to Whether Americans Are Being Held Captives Among Crews of Prize Ships.

Buenos Aires, Jan. 22.—La Prensa publishes a dispatch from Rio Janeiro saying that, according to a cablegram received in Pernambuco, the British cruiser Glasgow has sunk a German commerce raider 130 miles off Para. No details are given.

STATE DEPARTMENT ACTS

Washington, Jan. 22.—Inquiry has been made of Germany as to whether there were any Americans among the 103 neutral sailors brought in as prisoners of war on the German prize Yarrowdale for having taken pay on armed merchantmen. The inquiry was made entirely on news reports and not on any official information that has come to the state department.

Officials admit that the armed ship issue is at the root of the whole question. The views of this country and Germany appear widely divergent. Each case, officials say, must be decided entirely on its own merits, but out of all the difficulties that have recently arisen it is believed it may be possible to enunciate some general rule. It is said, however, that no definite program has yet been drawn up. The mere fact that some of the sunken vessels were permitted to sail as merchantmen from American ports is regarded as prima facie but not final evidence of their peaceful status.

The status of sailors captured on an armed ship after purely defensive resistance is undecided. As there is no similar case great care must be shown in the handling of the difficulty. Officials therefore expect to move slowly and await facts from every angle before making a final decision.

Nevertheless the importance of the armed ship issue is so great that some understanding is felt to be necessary. The first dispatch to the state department from Ambassador Gerard in Berlin about the German raider and the prisoners brought in on the prize Yarrowdale was received today. It merely quoted from Berlin evening papers that the Yarrowdale had put into port with 469 prisoners of whom 109 were neutrals. It was merely a newspaper summary without any official communication.

HOOVER ASKS \$150,000,000 FOR BELGIANS

New York, Jan. 22.—The giving of an extra daily meal to 250,000 Belgian school children was the greatest accomplishment of the American commission for relief of Belgium in the opinion of its chairman, Herbert C. Hoover, who has just arrived here from Liverpool. Mr. Hoover began today with his colleagues to devise relief plans for another year.

The extra meal consists of only meat hash and bread, the commissioner said, but it has helped greatly to increase the attendance at school. Many children previously had remained at home because their parents feared they would go hungry if allowed to go to school.

Mr. Hoover said there are 3,500,000 destitute persons in Belgium and 2,000,000 in France, and it will take about \$150,000,000 to carry on the work of the commission of another year.

"The situation is far worse than it has been at any time since the war started," he declared. "It is a result of a steady degeneration among the people."

Only a negligible amount of business is transacted in Belgium. Mr. Hoover said. All social and intellectual life is at a standstill, the famous universities are closed and the professors either have scattered or sacrificed their lives for their country.

The National Daylight Saving Convention will be held at New York Jan. 30-31.

Dr. Isaac J. Wells, for years an appraiser in the New York Custom House, is dead.

The fourth annual convention of the Polish Defense Committee opened at New York.

40 MILLION INCREASE IN GRAND LIST

Assessors Make Total Valuation of City Property About \$180,000,000 By Wholesale Boosts on Business and Factory.

Main Street Property From Fairfield Avenue to Elm Street to Be Levied on at \$4,000 a Front Foot—Every Manufacturer Hit.

In a desperate effort to make up for its unwarranted and appalling extravagance in every department, the board of tax assessors has boosted the grand list fully \$40,000,000, making a grand list of nearly \$180,000,000 for 1917.

In making their increase the assessors have first raised the valuation of the property and machinery of practically every large manufacturer in the city. Then they have given a boost to property in the center of the city bounded by parts of Congress and Golden Hill streets, east by Water street, west by Broad street and south by State street. All property in Main street, both sides, north of Fairfield avenue to Congress street, has been increased in valuation. A valuation of \$4,000 per front foot has been set on property from Fairfield avenue just north of Main street to Elm street. This valuation was arrived at because of the recent sale of property owned by St. Patrick's church, facing Elm street. This property had a 20.4 feet frontage and the assessors claim it sold for \$85,000.

North from Elm street the valuation is graduated from \$3,500 down to \$2,815 at Congress and Main streets. In Fairfield avenue between Broad and Water streets, there have been corresponding raises. From Broad street to about the center of the block between Main the valuation has been made \$1,500 per front foot. Near Main street it is \$1,875, going down to \$1,600 near Water street.

On many home owners in the North End the increase in valuation comes as a hardship. Practically all that property on which comparatively new houses have been built, have been increased in valuation.

All property in the Blockland district, the district about Seaside park, at Bondside park and in the West End has been increased in valuation. All real estate tracts that are being developed as home sections have also been largely increased in valuation, so that many prospective home owners having purchased a building lot will find their taxes increased.

Notices of the increase in valuations have been sent out and today the assessors' office was thronged with an indignant stream of property owners demanding to know why the valuation of their property has been increased. They got little satisfaction however and the board of relief will have some busy sessions.

RINGLING WILL BUILD HIS OWN RAILROAD LINE

Circusman to Link Town Named for Him With Oklahoma City, 150 Miles

(Special to The Farmer)
Oklahoma City, Jan. 22.—Surveys have been completed for a large portion of the new railroad by which Ringling, the town named for John Ringling of circus fame, will be connected with this city. Work is expected to begin the near future. The railroad will be 150 miles long, running through Jefferson, Carter, Stephens, Garvin, Cleveland and Oklahoma Counties.

Ringling is a prosperous little community where oil wells are gushing forth fortunes, and a large of the oil wells are owned by John Ringling. The road will be known as the Ringling & Oil Fields Railway Co.

The incorporators are John Ringling, Jake Hamon, a politician and promoters well known in Oklahoma City; Charles Wilson of Chicago, an association of Mr. Ringling; and H. A. Doomer, J. S. Mullen, P. C. Dings, and C. L. Anderson, of Ardmore, Okla.

CRISTINO FINDING DELAYED

Coroner Phelan said this morning that it may be several days before he makes a finding in the case of Lorenzo Cristino, who was shot Jan. 13 during a dispute in Hallett street. He heard several witnesses this morning but did not state what they told him. Cristino is alleged to have been shot by Gaetano Napatona, who is still being sought by the police. The trend of the testimony taken so far indicates that Napatona was attacked by Cristino and the latter's brother and shot in self defense.

History-Making Scene in Senate as President Counsels With That Body as to Whether This Nation Shall Depart From the Precepts of Washington and Enter Alliance to Preserve Peace at End of Present War—Says Lasting Peace Cannot be Formed Upon Victory, and That Freedom of Access to the Seas and Freedom of the Seas Will Be Essential in Establishing Permanent Tranquility—Now is the Time to Present Our Views, He Tells the Senate.

Washington, Jan. 22.—President Wilson, in a personal address to the senate today, laid down the question of whether the United States shall depart from its traditional policy of isolation and no entangling alliances and take part in a world league to preserve peace after the war.

Shattering precedent of more than a century, the president, regarding the senate with its treaty making power as his counselor in foreign affairs, explained why he believed the time had come for the world to know America's position, and discussed the underlying causes on which he believes a permanent peace of the world can be maintained.

While President Wilson was speaking directly to the senators, after the manner of Washington, Madison and Adams, his address was in the hands of all foreign governments or on its way to them.

No such history-making event with such far-reaching possibilities to the United States possibly ever had been seen in the senate chamber.

The background of the fundamental proposition of whether the United States should alter the foreign policy laid down by Washington and carried out by a long line of presidents was the possibility that out of some such league of nations might come a way to end the present war.

TEXT OF WILSON'S ADDRESS

Washington, Jan. 22.—The president in his address to the senate spoke as follows:

"Gentlemen of the senate: On the 18th of December last I addressed an identical note to the governments of the nations now at war requesting them to state, more definitely than they had yet been stated by either group of belligerents, the terms on which they would deem it possible to make peace. I spoke on behalf of humanity and of the rights of all neutral nations like our own, many of whose most vital interests the war puts in constant jeopardy.

"The Central powers united in a reply which stated merely that they were ready to meet such catastrophe in conference to discuss terms of peace.

"The Entente powers have replied much more definitely and have stated, in general terms, indeed, but with sufficient definiteness to imply details, the arrangements, guarantees and acts of reparation which they deem to be the indispensable conditions of a satisfactory settlement.

"We are that much nearer a definite discussion of the peace which shall end the present war. We are that much nearer the discussion of the international concert which must thereafter hold the world at peace. In every discussion of the peace that must end this war it is taken for granted that that peace must be followed by some definite concert of power which will make it virtually impossible that any such catastrophe should ever overwhelm us again.

"Every lover of mankind, every sane and thoughtful man must take that for granted.

"I have sought this opportunity to address you because I thought that I owed it to you, as the counsel associated with me in the final determination of our international obligations, to disclose to you without reserve the thought and purpose that have been taking form in my mind in regard to the duty of our government in these days to come when it will be necessary to lay afresh and upon a new plan the foundations of peace among the nations.

"It is inconceivable that the people of the United States should play no part in that great enterprise. To take part in such a service will be the opportunity for which they have sought to prepare themselves, by the very principles and purposes of their policy and the approved practices of their government, ever since the days when they set up a new nation in the high and honorable hope that it might in all that it was and did show mankind the way to liberty. They cannot, in honor, withhold the service to which they are now about to be challenged. They do not wish to withhold it. But they owe it to themselves and to the other nations of the world to state the conditions under which they will feel free to render it.

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Vice President Marshall laid before the Senate at 11 o'clock a letter from President Wilson saying that he had an important communication relating to foreign affairs which he deemed it his duty to lay before the senate and which he would like to present in person.

The senate then adopted a resolution by Senator Stone to hear the president at 1 o'clock.

Senator Stone explained that the matter as he understood it would not require an executive session.

Vice President Marshall, on motion of Senator Stone, appointed a committee of five senators to notify the president that the senate would be glad to receive him at 1 o'clock and later to escort him to the chamber. Senators Saulsbury, Stone, Overman, Gallinger and Kenyon were named. President Wilson's letter, dated Sunday, was as follows:

"My dear vice president: There is a communication concerning the foreign relations of the country which I think it my duty to make to the senate and which I would very much like to make in person. I would be very much obliged if I might be afforded the opportunity to do so tomorrow, the 22nd, if it can be arranged without inconvenience to the senate.

"I know of no other than this informal way in which to convey this wish to the senators. I have spoken only a half dozen Senators in the chamber and when a quorum had been secured Senator Gallinger, Republican leader, asked that it be read again.

When the clerk had finished, Senator Gallinger said:

"I will venture to inquire of the chairman of the committee on foreign relations whether, since it is a matter touching our foreign relations, we shall be addressed in executive or open session."

"It is not a matter, as I understand it," replied Senator Stone, "that needs to be considered in executive session."

"If the senator is satisfied," said Senator Gallinger, "I will raise no objection. We have been so careful, however, and the suggestion has been made so often that we be careful in matters of foreign relations, that I wondered about it."

No other president had addressed either branch of Congress separately since Thomas Jefferson did in 1801. In fact, no president addressed Congress in joint session since that time until President Wilson revived the custom in 1913.

It was announced that the President would discuss an outline of the attitude of the United States toward future arrangements for the permanent maintenance of peace and the question of the part the United States shall take in the proposed league for the preservation of peace. It was said that possibly no pending questions between the United States and other nations would be taken up. The announcement was made by Secretary Tumulty following a brief conference with the President.

Although no official explanation of the President's action was given in advance, it became known to Senator Stone and other Senators in touch with foreign affairs, that the President felt that the time had come when the Senate, which is clothed with the treaty making power, should be in-

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